

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, UR, US, PINS
SUBJECT: TASS ATTACK ON USG ANTI-HIJACKING POLICY AND
BONN DECLARATION
REF: A. MOSCOW 18033, B. MOSCOW 17079, C. MOSCOW 5659,
D. STATE 186925

SUMMARY: IN REPORT ON DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, TASS
ARTICLE CARRIED IN AUGUST 7 PRAVDA AGAIN CITES U.S.
POSITION ON BRAZINSKAS CASE AS EVIDENCE OF "HYPOCRISY"
OF U.S. ANTI-HIJACKING POLICY. ARTICLE ATTACKS THE
BONN ANTI-HIJACKING DECLARATION, ASSERTING THAT THE
SEVEN INTEND TO ARROGATE TO THEMSELVES THE FUNCTIONS
OF AN INTERNATIONAL POLICE AND COURT AND THAT THEY WILL
APPLY SANCTIONS IN A ONE-SIDED FASHION AGAINST
COUNTRIES "OBJECTIONABLE" TO THE WEST. THE CURRENT
SERIES OF TASS NEWS STORIES SUGGESTS THAT THE USSR
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DOES NOT INTEND TO LEND ITS SUPPORT TO THE BONN DEC-
LARATION AND WILL USE THE BRAZINSKAS CASE AS AN
EXCUSE. END SUMMARY.

1. TASS ARTICLE REPORTS THAT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN
GAVE A "STRANGE" REPLY TO A QUESTION ON WHETHER THE
USG WOULD MEET SOVIET DEMANDS TO RETURN THE BRAZINSKAS.

HE STATED THAT "THIS ACT OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM" DOES NOT FALL WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE BONN DECLARATION AND THEN DECLINED TO STATE WHETHER THIS POSITION MEANS THAT THE US HAS TO RETURN THE BRAZINSKAS TO THE USSR. TASS ARTICLE THEN INTERPRETS THIS "CYNICAL ANSWERS" AS ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION OF US "HYPOCRISY" IN THAT US IS CONCERNED WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF THE HIJACKING OF AMERICAN AIRCRAFT BUT INDIFFERENT TO THE -----ETRATION OF SUCH ACTS AGAINST THE CITIZENS AND AIRCRAFT OF THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

2. TASS ARTICLE GOES ON TO CLAIM THAT THE SEVEN WESTERN COUNTRIES ADOPTING IT WILL ALSO APPLY THE ANTI-HIJACKING DECLARATION HYPOCRITICALLY. THE SEVEN COUNTRIES INTEND TASS SAYS, TO TAKE UPON THEMSELVES THE FUNCTIONS OF AN INTERNATIONAL POLICE AND SINGLE COURT IN RESPECT TO THE HIJACKING OF AIRCRAFT AND OTHER TERRORIST ACTS. IT CLAIMS THAT THEY WILL APPLY THE SANCTIONS IN A ONE SIDED FASHION AGAINST COUNTRIES "OBJECTIONABLE TO THE WEST", BASED ONLY ON THEIR INTERESTS.

3. COMMENT: THIS ARTICLE IS THE FIRST ATTACK ON THE BONN ANTI-HIJACKING DECLARATION PER SE RATHER THAN ON USG POLICY IN THE BRAZINSKAS CASE (REF A AND B). ITS PUBLICATION SUGGESTS THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IS LAYING THE PUBLIC GROUND WORK FOR NOT SUPPORTING THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANTI-HIJACKING RESOLUTION AND THAT THEY WILL USE THE BRAZINSKAS CASE AS THE REASON. TOON

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